

## ABSTRACT

MAAR Associates, Inc. (MAI) of Newark, Delaware conducted Phase I and Phase II Cultural Resource Surveys of the Church Road highway improvement project area for Whitman, Requardt and Associates beginning in June 1999 and finishing in July of 2001. The project area is located on the south side of U.S. Route 40 and runs from the intersection with Church Road to a point along Church Road south of the Conrail railroad tracks. Although the area contains several potentially significant historic structures, it consists primarily of cultivated farmland with a patch of wooded land at its southern end.

The background research and a historic building study indicated that neither of the standing structures at 1506 Pulaski Highway or south of the railroad crossing along Church Road are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, primarily due to loss of integrity caused by modern architectural changes. However, a specific portion of the cultivated farmland on the eastern side of Church Road at the southern end of the study area contains both historic and prehistoric archaeological resources (Wynnefield Site). This area was slated to become the location of a storm water management pond and portions of the site would have been severely impacted.

A subsequent Phase II investigation of the Wynnefield Site (7NC-D-219) revealed two components containing archaeological remains - a nineteenth century farmstead and a prehistoric occupation - which, based on recovered diagnostic artifacts, appear to date to the early part of the Woodland I period. The core of the historic component is located some 150 to 200 ft north of the APE. The core of the prehistoric component, however, was located squarely within the impact area of the proposed pond. Prehistoric artifacts were recovered from surface contexts, plowzone contexts, several buried remnant unplowed (A) horizons, and within a number of small and large pit features. The site is believed to represent a small seasonal micro-band base camp and may also have served as a specialized procurement camp.

Based on the above findings, the prehistoric component of the Wynnefield Site appears to possess a high degree of significance, integrity, and research potential and has been recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, under the terms of Criterion D. The historic component may be eligible under Criterion A, due to its association with George Rodney, a prominent citizen of New Castle County.